



Florida judge voids U.S. mask mandate for planes, other travel

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — A federal judge in Florida on Monday voided the national mask mandate covering airlines and other public transportation as exceeding the authority of U.S. health officials in their response to the coronavirus pandemic. The mandate, recently extended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, covered a vast array of transportation, from airplanes and trains to city subways and ride-sharing vehicles such as Uber. The decision by U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle in Tampa, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, also said the CDC improperly failed to justify its decision and did not follow proper rulemaking procedures that left it fatally flawed. In her 59-page ruling, Mizelle said the only remedy was to vacate the rule entirely across the country because it would be impossible to end it for the limited group of people who objected in the lawsuit.

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Travelers walk through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Friday, April 1, 2022 in Seattle.
Associated Press

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Continued from Front

The judge said "a limited remedy would be no remedy at all" and courts have full authority to make a decision such as this — even if the goals of the CDC in fighting the virus are laudable.

"Because our system does not permit agencies to act unlawfully even in pursuit of desirable ends, the court declares unlawful and vacates the mask mandate," she wrote.

The Justice Department declined to comment Monday when asked if the government planned to appeal the ruling. The CDC also declined to comment. White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters that federal agencies were still assessing the court decision Monday afternoon. "This is obviously a disappointing decision," Psaki said. "The CDC is recommending wearing a mask on public transit."

Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who was not directly involved in the case but has battled against many government coronavirus requirements, praised the ruling in a statement on Twitter.

"Great to see a federal judge in Florida follow the



Travelers line up wearing protective masks indoors at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Dec. 28, 2021.

law and reject the Biden transportation mask mandate. Both airline employees and passengers deserve to have this misery end," DeSantis tweeted. The CDC recently extended the mask mandate, which was set to expire Monday, until May 3 to allow more time to study the BA.2 omicron subvariant of the coronavirus that is now responsible for the vast majority of cases in the U.S.

The mandate covered all types of transportation in the U.S. as well as requiring masks in any transportation hub, such as an airport, seaport or bus terminal. It wasn't immediately clear Monday whether or

not some of these entities would continue to require masks on their own.

United Airlines told employees that the mask rule remains in effect while federal officials decide how to respond to the judge's ruling. Other airlines and their trade group, Airlines for America, did not immediately respond to requests for comment after the ruling was released.

The Association of Flight Attendants, the nation's largest union of cabin crews, has recently taken a neutral position on the mask rule because its members are divided about the issue. On Monday, the union's president appealed for calm on

planes and in airports.

"The last thing we need for workers on the frontlines or passengers traveling today is confusion and chaos," union leader Sara Nelson said. Nelson said it takes airlines 24 to 48 hours to put new procedures in place and tell employees about them. She said passengers should check with airlines for updates about travel requirements.

In New York, Metropolitan Transportation Authority communications director Tim Minton said, "We are continuing to follow CDC guidelines and will review the Florida court order."

The MTA operates New York City buses and subway

trains as well as two commuter rail lines. Face coverings have been mandatory on all trains and buses since early in the pandemic.

The federal mask requirement for travelers was the target of months of lobbying from the airlines, which sought to kill it. The carriers argued that effective air filters on modern planes make transmission of the virus during a flight highly unlikely. Republicans in Congress also fought to kill the mandate.

Critics have seized on the fact that states have rolled back rules requiring masks in restaurants, stores and other indoor settings, and yet COVID-19 cases have fallen sharply since the omicron variant peaked in mid-January.

There have been a series of violent incidents on aircraft that have mainly been attributed to disputes over the mask-wearing requirements. The lawsuit was filed in July 2021 by two plaintiffs and the Health Freedom Defense Fund, described in the judge's order as a non-profit group that "opposes laws and regulations that force individuals to submit to the administration of medical products, procedures and devices against their will." □

Associated Press

Rain dampens 1st White House Easter Egg Roll since 2019

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Snoopy, Charlie Brown and "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon roamed the soggy White House grounds on Monday for the first Easter egg roll since before the coronavirus pandemic.

Undaunted by rain, President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, kicked off the equivalent of a daylong garden party for some 30,000 kids and adults, including celebrities and costumed characters.

A pair of Easter bunnies escorted the Bidens onto the Blue Room balcony to welcome the crowd to their backyard. The first lady chose "egg-ucation" as the theme. The South Lawn was turned into a school community because "education never stops," said Jill Biden, a community college professor. "The determined spirit of education is what we wanted to honor in this Easter Egg Roll," she said. President Biden said it was "so special" to be able to gather this year after the pandemic forced the White House to cancel the 2020 and 2021 Easter egg rolls. "It means so much to see and hear the children and all the families show up to be here today," he said,



President Joe Biden appears and salutes with first lady Jill Biden and the Easter Bunnies on the Blue Room balcony at the White House during the White House Easter Egg Roll, Monday, April 18, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

citing their joy, laughter and occasional outbursts of "there's the Easter bunny." Biden's infant grandson, Beau, was among several family members present, including the boy's parents, Hunter Biden and his wife, Melissa. Also on hand were the Bidens' daughter Ashley Biden, and Natalie Biden, one of their granddaughters.

After their remarks, the president and first lady went down to the lawn to watch

as groups of children used wooden spoons to coax brightly dyed hard-boiled eggs across a patch of wet grass to the finish line.

"Ready, set," Biden said before blowing a whistle to start the competition. He later coached a young egg-roller, saying "Go, You got it!"

The couple then visited the reading nook, where Biden held up a copy of "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" as the

first lady quickly read aloud "so you're all not soaking wet," she told those who had been waiting in the light rain. Fallon joined them afterward and read his own children's book, "Nana Loves You More." Jill Biden's grandchildren call her "Nana."

Hunter Biden introduced himself to people sitting in the reading area, and to others lined up on the other side of a fence, at times carrying his infant son Beau

in his arms. The Easter egg roll featured several other stations, including a talent show, a place to teach kids about farming, a photo-taking station, a physical "egg-ucation" zone with an obstacle course, and a "cafetorium" where children learned to make treats. Actor-singer Kristin Chenoweth also appeared in the reading nook.

The White House gates opened at around 7 a.m., with the first of five waves of people streaming through. Many came prepared for the cold, damp weather with umbrellas, rain ponchos and plastic covers over baby strollers.

Maya Kennedy, 10, of Portland, Oregon, said she was having a good time at her first White House Easter egg roll despite the weather. She had seen some of the PBS KIDS characters and had heard the first lady speak. The fifth grader said she also wanted to meet Jill Biden.

"She's really cool," Maya said near the reading nook as she watched the first lady pose for photos with participants after her reading, including with White House press secretary Jen Psaki and her family.

The White House Easter Egg Roll dates to 1878. □

On Tax Day, an extension may be better than rushing a return

By FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Monday is Tax Day — the federal deadline for individual tax filing and payments — and the IRS expects to receive tens of millions of last-minute filings electronically and through paper forms. As of April 8, the IRS had received more than 103 million returns for this tax season, and it had issued more than 63 million refunds worth more than \$204 billion.

For comparison, last year more than 169 million people completed an income tax return by the end of the year. That probably leaves nearly 40% of this year's tax-

payers still unaccounted for, with many scrambling to submit their documents by Monday.

Nina Tross, executive director of the National Society of Tax Professionals, said that if people haven't filed their taxes by now, "they're better off filing an extension."

But, she added, "People don't realize that filing an extension has zero effect" as long as they have paid their income taxes by Tax Day.

"An extension is merely filing a return at a later date," Tross said. "If you rush through a return to get it out the door, and you have to amend it later, you're

more likely to get a double look from the IRS."

"You're much better off extending than amending," she said.

The IRS this year is facing its biggest backlog in history. At the end of the 2021 filing season, the agency had 35.3 million returns waiting for processing. One reason is that every paper document that goes into the IRS is processed by a human, according to the IRS. Another is that the agency has administered massive coronavirus pandemic-related relief programs over the last several years — like the advanced Child Tax Credit.

And some forms are re-



A W-4 form on Feb. 5, 2020, in New York. Monday is Tax Day, the federal deadline for individual tax filing and payments.

Associated Press

viewed by IRS employees and treated as if submitted on paper even if they are e-filed.

This year will be one of the most challenging for the agency, with its record low staffing numbers. The IRS workforce is the same size it was in 1970, though the U.S. population has grown exponentially and tax laws

have become increasingly complicated.

Lisa Greene-Lewis, a certified public accountant and a spokesperson at TurboTax, said that if people still intend to file a return by Tax Day, "I would gather all your documents in one place so you don't leave anything out, like W-2s and 1099s." □

Migrant crossings spike as U.S. plans to lift curb on asylum

By BEN FOX

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Migrants attempted to cross the U.S.-Mexico border at the highest level in two decades as the U.S. prepares for even larger numbers with the expected lifting of a pandemic-era order that turned away asylum seekers.

Immigration authorities stopped migrants 221,303 times along the Southwest border in March, a 34% increase from a month earlier, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data filed with a federal court in Texas.

The new figures were disclosed as the Biden administration comes under increasing pressure over the looming expiration of a public health order that enabled U.S. authorities to turn back most migrants, including people seeking asylum from persecution. The number of migrant encounters has gone up nearly every month since President Joe Biden took office, becoming fodder for political opponents who point to the increase as evidence that this administration is weaker on border security than its predecessor. A backlog of people waiting outside the country to



Migrants rest in a dormitory of the Good Samaritan shelter in Juarez, Mexico, on March 29, 2022. Associated Press

seek asylum, as well as dire economic and political conditions in much of Latin America and the Caribbean, is partially responsible for the increase in migrants. Administration critics blame Biden, arguing his administration's moves to roll back Trump-era policies has encouraged people to come. The number of illegal crossings, or those outside official ports of entry, totaled 209,906 in March, surpassing the previous high of Biden's presidency of 200,658 set in

July, and the highest level since March 2000, when it reached 220,063. Former President Donald Trump also faced a sharp increase in migrant border crossings but the number plummeted with the start of the pandemic. In March 2020, the previous administration invoked Title 42, a little-used public health authority to quickly expel nearly anyone encountered along the Southwest border. U.S. authorities have ex-

pelled migrants more than 1.7 million times under Title 42 authority, named for a 1944 public health law, using the threat of COVID-19 to deny migrants a chance to seek asylum as required under U.S. law and international treaty.

With COVID-19 cases in decline, the Biden administration has said it intends to end the use of Title 42 at the border on May 23.

Several moderate Democrats have joined Republican leaders to call for an

extension of Title 42 authority. Sen. Mark Kelly, an Arizona Democrat up for election this year, toured the border last week and warned that the Biden administration is unprepared for asylum restrictions to be lifted.

The rapid expulsions under Title 42 are a significant component of the increase. Migrants are turned back without any legal consequences, and many simply try to cross again and are therefore counted more than once in the total.

More than half of the 221,303 stopped were quickly turned away, without being given a chance to apply for asylum, either to Mexico or their homelands, according to data supplied to a federal court in Texas as part of that state's challenge of Biden administration immigration policies.

Most of the rest were processed under immigration authority, known as Title 8, and their ultimate fate varies. About 34,000 were allowed to remain in the U.S. under parole, which will allow them to pursue asylum or legal residency through other avenues. If they are unsuccessful, they could face deportation. □



Native Americans marching in support of one of several tribal sovereignty bills pass by the governor's mansion on April 11, 2022, in Augusta, Maine.

Associated Press

By DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined an appeal by the Penobscot Indian Nation in its fight with Maine over ownership and regulation of the tribe's

namesake river.

It was a bitter defeat for the tribe that sued a decade ago, claiming the Penobscot River is part of its reservation.

Penobscot Chief Kirk Francis said it was a disappointing outcome in a legal

Supreme Court denies Penobscot appeal over namesake river

case that goes to the "core identity of the Penobscot Nation." "We see this as a modern day territorial removal by the state by trying to separate us from our ancestral ties to our namesake river," Francis told The Associated Press.

A federal judge previously ruled that the reservation includes islands of the river's main stem, but not the waters. There were appeals to a panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of appeals and then to the full appeals court.

On Monday, the nation's top court without comment, declined to hear the tribe's appeals over river regulation.

Maine Attorney General Aaron Frey and Democratic Gov. Janet Mills had no immediate comment on Monday.

The ruling came as the Maine Legislature was considering several measures that relate to tribal sovereignty. The most far-reaching legislative proposal would restore sovereignty rights forfeited by tribes under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980. The House enacted the bill Monday, but it was pending in the Senate. It faces a possible veto by the governor.

The Penobscots, whose reservation is on an island in the river, sued in 2012 after

then-Attorney General William Schneider issued an opinion that the tribe's territory was limited to islands. The tribe said the lawsuit was necessary to protect tribal authority over its ancestral river and ensure sustenance rights. But state regulators argued that a win by the tribe would create "a two-tiered system" on the Penobscot that would be a detriment to the general public.

Francis said it the Supreme Court's action was probably the end of the road for the appeal but he said the tribe wouldn't give up.

"We'll continue to see every avenue to remedy this," he said. □

Sweden links riots to criminal gangs that target police

By JARI TANNER

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Swedish police said Monday that the riots that have shaken several cities and towns in the Nordic country are extremely serious crimes against society and suspect some protesters are linked to criminal gangs that intentionally target police.

Sweden, a nation of 10 million, has seen unrest, scuffles, arson and violence since Thursday that has left some police officers and protesters injured. It was triggered by Danish far-right politician Rasmus Paludan's meetings and planned Quran burnings across the country.

"We suspect that those involved (in the riots) have links to criminal gangs," National Police Commissioner Anders Thornberg told a news conference on Monday, adding some of those "criminal individuals" are known to police. "I have been in touch with the public prosecutor to prosecute these individuals."

Sweden's National Police Commander Jonas Hysing said Monday that 26 police and 14 individuals — protesters or other people — have been injured in the riots and 20 police vehicles destroyed or damaged.

The latest riots broke out Sunday night in Malmo,



Protesters set fire to a police bus in the park Sveaparken in Orebro, Sweden, Friday, April 15, 2022. Associated Press

Sweden's third-largest city, as an angry crowd of mainly young people set fire to car tires, debris and garbage cans in the Rosengard district.

Protesters threw stones and police responded by firing tear gas into the crowd. A school and several cars were set on fire, but the situation calmed down early Monday.

A total of 11 people were detained and three people arrested in Malmo. No serious injuries were reported. Since Thursday, in addition to Malmo, riots, unrest and violent clashes have been reported in Stockholm, the

central city of Orebro, the eastern cities of Linkoping and Norrkoping and southern town of Landskrona.

Police have been forced to use weapons in self-defense, Hysing said. Three people were hurt in Norrkoping on Sunday as they were hit by ricochets as police fired warning shots into a crowd of protesters.

"There is a lot to suggest that the police were targeted," Hysing said, adding that some protesters were suspected of attempted murder, aggravated assault and violence against an official.

Both Thornberg and Hys-

ing stressed that the main target for the rioters was Swedish police and society, not Paludan — seen by many Swedes merely as an agent provocateur — and his Stram Kurs (Hard Line) party, which runs on an anti-immigrant, anti-Islam agenda.

Thornberg, Sweden's supreme police chief, said "criminal individuals" who took advantage of the situation with Paludan's Swedish Easter tour and joined the riots, were the main suspects for the violent flare-ups of violence. The unrest escalated quickly after Paludan's first demonstra-

tions, which were met by counter-protesters in many places last week.

"We must put an end to this early. What we see here is a very serious crime," Thornberg said, referring to the riots.

Justice Minister Morgan Johansson said Monday that he continues to have great confidence in the Swedish police despite the unrest over the weekend and pledged more resources to law enforcement.

"When you end up in these critical and aggressive situations, there's nothing else police officers can do but to put up a hard fight," Johansson told Swedish news outlets. "We cannot accept that perpetrators commit this type of violence."

Iraq's Foreign Ministry on Sunday summoned Sweden's charge d'affaires over Paludan's planned Quran burnings, reportedly saying that such activity could seriously endanger Sweden's relations with the Muslim world.

In Iran, dozens of students gathered Monday at Sweden's embassy to protest Paludan's planned Quran burnings.

Chanting "Insulters of Quran must be condemned!" they also repeated traditional slogans such as "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!" □

Turkey launches new ground, air offensive in northern Iraq

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey has launched a new ground and air cross-border offensive against Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, that has left at least 19 suspected Kurdish rebels dead and has wounded at least four Turkish soldiers, Turkey's defense minister said Monday.

Turkish jets and artillery struck suspected targets of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and commando troops — supported by helicopters and drones — then crossed into the region by land or were airlifted by helicopters, Defense Minister

Hulusi Akar said in a video posted on the ministry's website.

Akar said the jets successfully struck shelters, bunkers, caves, tunnels, ammunition depots and headquarters belonging to the PKK. The group maintains bases in northern Iraq and has used the territory for attacks on Turkey.

At least 19 militants were killed while four Turkish troops were wounded during the offensive, the ministry said. There was no immediate comment from the Kurdish militant group on the incursion and the

defense ministry statement couldn't be verified independently.

Turkey has conducted numerous cross-border aerial and ground operations against the PKK over the past decades. The latest offensive, named Operation Claw Lock, was centered in northern Iraq's Metina, Zap and Avashin-Basyan regions.

There was no information on the number of troops and jets involved in the latest incursion.

"Our heroic commandoes and maroon berets — supported by attack helicop-



Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar arrives for a meeting of the North Atlantic Council with Georgia and Ukraine at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

ters, unmanned aerial vehicles, armed unmanned aerial vehicles — arrived on the scene by land and by air and captured the determined targets," Akar said in

a second video. "Many terrorists were neutralized."

"At this point we have reached, all planned targets have been captured," he said. □

Gaza militants fire rocket into Israel as tensions soar

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian militants fired a rocket into southern Israel for the first time in months on Monday, in another escalation after clashes at a sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, a series of deadly attacks inside Israel and military raids across the occupied West Bank.

Israel said it intercepted the rocket, and there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Israel holds Gaza's militant Hamas rulers responsible for all such projectiles and usually launches airstrikes in their wake. It was the first such rocket fire since New Year's Eve.

Hours earlier, the leader of the Islamic Jihad militant group, which boasts an arsenal of rockets, had issued a brief, cryptic warning, condemning Israeli "violations" in Jerusalem.

Ziad al-Nakhala, who is based outside the Palestinian territories, said threats to tighten an Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Gaza imposed after Hamas seized power 15 years ago "can't silence us from what's happening in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank." Palestinians and Israeli police clashed over the weekend in and around the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, which has long been an epicen-



Israeli army soldiers guard a section of Israel's separation barrier, in the West Bank village of Nilin, west of Ramallah, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021.

ter of Israeli-Palestinian violence. It is the third holiest site in Islam and the holiest for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because the mosque stands on a hilltop where the Jewish temples were located in antiquity.

Protests and clashes there this time last year eventually led to an 11-day Gaza war.

Police said they were responding to Palestinian stone-throwing and that they were committed to ensuring that Jews, Christians and Muslims — whose major holidays are converging this year — could

celebrate them safely in the Holy Land. Palestinians view the presence of Israeli police at the site as a provocation and said they used excessive force.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Monday, ahead of the rocket fire, that Israel has been the target of a "Hamas-led incitement campaign."

The latest tensions come during the confluence of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the week-long Jewish holiday of Passover. Christians are also celebrating their holy week leading up to Easter, and tens of thousands of visitors

have flocked to Jerusalem's Old City — home to major holy sites for all three faiths — for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Jordan and Egypt, which made peace with Israel decades ago and coordinate with it on security matters, have condemned its actions at the mosque. Jordan — which serves as custodian of the site — summoned Israel's charge d'affaires on Monday in protest.

Jordan's King Abdullah II discussed the violence with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, agreeing on

"the need to stop all illegal and provocative Israeli measures" there, according to a statement. Jordan planned to convene a meeting of other Arab states on the issue.

Israel has been working to improve relations with Jordan over the past year and has recently normalized relations with other Arab states over their shared concerns about Iran. But the latest tensions have brought renewed attention to the conflict with the Palestinians, which Israel has sought to sideline in recent years.

An Arab party that made history last year by joining Israel's governing coalition suspended its participation on Sunday — a largely symbolic act that nevertheless reflected the sensitivity of the holy site, which is at the emotional heart of the century-old conflict.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — which includes the Old City — in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek those territories for a future independent state. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move not recognized internationally and is building and expanding Jewish settlements across the West Bank, which it views as the biblical and historical heartland of the Jewish people. □

Associated Press

Pakistan court sentences 6 to death in killing of Sri Lankan



Police officers escort suspects allegedly involved in the killing of Priyantha Kumara, a Sri Lankan factory manager, after their appearance in anti-terrorism court, in Gujranwala, Pakistan, Dec. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A Pakistan court Monday sentenced six people to death and nine others to life in prison after convicting them for their roles in last year's vigilante killing of a Sri Lankan factory manager accused by workers of committing blasphemy, a defense lawyer said.

The six men sentenced to death were convicted of murder in a case that outraged many Pakistanis. As many as 73 additional men were given jail terms of two to five years by the anti-terrorism court after finding them guilty of playing a role in the killing of Priyantha Ku-

mara. Kumara was killed in December by workers at a sports equipment factory in Pakistan's eastern Sialkot district where he was a manager. According to defense lawyer Israr Ullah, the judge announced the verdicts after concluding the trial at a jail in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province.

The killing of Kumara drew nationwide attention, with many people demanding the killers be publicly hanged.

Kumara was initially beaten by his Pakistani colleagues inside the factory who had accused him of desecrat-

ing posters bearing the name of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. His body was later dragged outside the factory and burned by an angry mob. According to officials, 89 suspects were tried in the killing of Kumara and one of them was acquitted. In conservative Pakistan, a mere allegation of blasphemy can invite mob attacks. The country's blasphemy law carries the death penalty for anyone found guilty of the offense. Pakistan's government has long been under pressure to change the country's blasphemy laws, a move Islamists strongly resist. □

Mexican leader fails to pass limits on foreign energy firms

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador failed to find enough votes late Sunday to pass a constitutional reform limiting private and foreign firms in the electrical power industry, marking the first major legislative setback for the president.

The defeat may set the tone for an angrier, more hard-line and polarizing president in the last 2 1/2 years of his administration. No longer able to ride on a legislative super-majority as he did in the first half of his term, López Obrador may now resort to harsher attacks on opponents and regulatory bodies like the courts and electoral authorities.

The reforms that failed to pass Sunday would have undone much of the market opening in power generation carried out by his predecessor in 2013, but also raised concerns among U.S. officials and companies, who worried they would violate trade pacts and guarantees for foreign investors.

On Monday, López Obrador called the opposition members of congress who voted against the reform traitors, claiming foreign firms "bought the legislators."

The lower house of Congress voted 275 to 223 in favor of the measure, which would have given more power to the state-owned power company, but that was well short of the 332 votes needed for constitutional changes.

Ana Vanessa Cárdenas Zanatta, a political science professor at the Monterrey Technological and Anahuac universities, said the vote marked the first legislative setback López Obrador has suffered since taking office in late 2018.

"Today he couldn't hide the fact that he was very angry," said Cárdenas Zanatta, noting he had continued pushing the project despite warnings from the U.S. government.

"Yesterday a group of legislators committed an act of treason," López Obrador said Monday. "Instead of defending the interests of the nation, of the people, they openly defended foreign firms that rob and prey."

Alejandro Moreno, the leader of the old ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, shot back "they are the traitors, and they haven't solved the crime problem and have left women abandoned," referring to increasing homicides against women in Mexico. Political analyst José Antonio Crespo said López Obrador was a victim of his own refusal to negotiate any of his proposals, preferring instead to divide the country into camps of "traitors" and patriots.

"For him, sitting down to negotiate with the opposition is betraying the cause, because he is used to doing things the way he says they should be done, or not at all," Crespo said. "I think this is going to hurt him in the second half of his term, because he no longer has the majority to do his bidding."

"I think the final half of this administration is going to be very tough, very tense, forced, very risky," Crespo said.

López Obrador has vowed to submit separately a bill that would nationalize the mining of lithium, which was part of the reform bill that failed Sunday.

The bill submitted for debate Monday would create a state-owned company for lithium mining, something López Obrador said

would "nationalize lithium." Only one lithium mine in Mexico, operated by a Chinese firm, is anywhere near close to starting production. That would presumably be taken over by the government if the bill passes on a simple majority.

The electricity reform sought to limit foreign-built renewable energy plants and guarantee at least 54% of electricity would be bought from government-owned generating plants, which are dirtier. Private and foreign companies, which have built wind and gas-fired generating plants, would have been allowed to keep up to 46% of the market.

Critics said the reform would hurt investors and their confidence in Mexico. The companies could have sought court injunctions, and the U.S. government could have complained under a free trade agreement and then put compensatory tariffs on Mexican products.

Pro-government legislators have already passed a law giving the state utility more discretion in deciding whose electricity to buy, but it remains stalled by court challenges.

The debate Sunday began with nearly all 500 deputies present. The ruling party and its allies needed a two-thirds majority to pass the constitutional reform.

Some pro-government legislators chanted "Traitors" at the opposition, which objects to the reform. Opposition lawmakers shouted: "It won't happen."

Given the atmosphere, López Obrador's Morena party failed to win over any significant number of opposition legislators. The vote appeared to promise 2 1/2 more years of polar-



A worker works among the Solar Panels installed by Pireos Power on the roof of a warehouse in the State of Mexico on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

Associated Press

ization in Mexico.

"Now, families and couples are divided, I have friends I no longer see, good friends, because we are going to

wind up fighting," Crespo said. "I have never seen this level of polarization, above all, one that is promoted from the top." □

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Test today, fly tomorrow during the holidays

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results (previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).



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- The Ritz-Carlton Resort.

Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

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For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. Regular testing fees applies. □

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Elliott Loonstra PLY wins bronze medal in Brazil

Elliott Loonstra PLY has done it again. Team Loonstra arrived in Río de Janeiro for the 2022 Pan Am Para Taekwondo Open Championship in which 59 athletes and 17 countries participated.

The first fight was against Brazil and finished in 26 secs with a score of 5-0 in favor of Loonstra after the Brazilian athlete withdrew. This secured his spot for the semi-finals. The next fight

was against another Brazilian athlete and after a hard fight, in the end, the Brazilian advanced to the final. This moment represents the second Pan Am Para Taekwondo Open Championship medal that Loonstra has achieved in his short ParaTaekwondo career.

Keep in mind that the category that Loonstra participated in was the largest at the tournament with 14



lympic Movement' in Para-Taekwondo. This goes to show that Coach Mazzeo has vast international experience that fellow countries appreciate. Team Loonstra would like to thank Bodyzone Gym, Romina Martinez (RoroFitness), Astrid Flores, Julieta Moral (Nutritionist), CEMEDAR, along with Loonstra's family for the extensive support of Loonstra and Mazzeo in their craft.

Let's welcome Team Loonstra back to Aruba Sunday, April 17th when the team arrives at 4:45pm on the Avianca flight.

Thank you to Aruba for the support and a thank you to Luciano Mazzeo for making the achievements possible. □



registered athletes. Coach Luciano Mazzeo was requested to coach for other countries whose coaches did not have the proper certification to coach at this high level event. The countries that requested his help were Argentina, Chile, and the Dominican Republic.

Argentina received Silver, Chile received Bronze, and the Dominican Republic received Silver. The athlete from the Dominican Republic has an additional disability, being deaf, making coaching more difficult.

Mazzeo supports the 'Deaf-

Come celebrate with Aruba's donkeys at the Donkey Fair

The Aruban Donkey Sanctuary is celebrating a festive period of time.

Exactly 25 years ago the sanctuary was started by Ramon Boekhoudt: he sheltered the first donkey, BanBan. This donkey is still living at the sanctuary with one exception: by now he is surrounded by approximately 130 colleagues!

The sanctuary has become a tourist attraction on the island, receiving some 30,000 visitors annually. But more than that it is a friendly place where the donkeys find a safe home. The animals are cared for by some 40 volunteers.

To celebrate our milestone, a festive Donkey Fair has been organized at the sanctuary: on Sunday, April 24 a Fair is held from 10 am until 3 pm. With more than 30 booths and a whole lot of music, the day will be spectacular. For instance, Emco will be printing T-shirts and companies such as Kooyman, Shrek and Flora Market as well as local artists will be showcasing their wares. Of course there will be enough to eat and drink and for the children there will be great games. Several animal chari-



ties and rescue organizations will be present as well. A wonderful auction with fun items is on the agenda too.

Fresh FM's famous Angela Tiemens is going to emcee the event.

All in all, too many reasons to decide to come to the sanctuary on the 24th. □

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Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch

NOORD — We are in 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

Tempting times

Do you remember the feeling as a kid, when you went to the store with your mom and the baker gave you a sweet roll, the butcher a slice of ham and they all took time to talk to each other? That time when doing groceries on a Saturday meant fun, making friends, and creating connections. To be fully aware in the moment and enjoying the time together sounds like a controversy today. Everything is efficient, there's no-time-to-waste and while doing one task the mind is already thinking ahead to what is next on your to-do list.

Did Covid-19 teach us anything? Weren't we telling each other dur-

ing the lockdown that we would pay more attention to each other? Wasn't the message that health and happiness is so much more valuable than hitting targets and implement to-do tasks? The pandemic prevents us from connecting physically. Tight hugs and shaking hands firmly are no longer a natural thing. We live in a world of face masks hides smiles, and hands are sanitized after each touch. This is not who we are. We are in search for connection.

From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

One stop shopping point



Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic, experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.

You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the per-

fect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □



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Shareholders await Musk's next move in Twitter takeover bid

By TOM KRISHER and
MATT O'BRIEN

AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Twitter has dropped a major roadblock in front of Elon Musk's effort to take over the company, leaving investors to wonder about the mercurial Tesla CEO's next move. The social media company has adopted a "poison pill" defense that makes it difficult for Musk or any other investor to buy Twitter without the board of directors' approval. Musk, who currently owns about 9% of the company, last week disclosed an offer of about \$43 billion, or \$54.20 per share.

Twitter's next likely move is to formally reject Musk's offer, although it could also enter into negotiations. Musk has a number of options which also include talks with the board, sweetening his offer, or even triggering the poison pill, which experts say could be disastrous for the company.

In a regulatory filing on Monday, Twitter's board said it approved the defensive move to protect the social media platform from "coercive or otherwise unfair" takeover tactics. The board is still leaving open the possibility of negotiating with Musk or another suitor. The filing says the shareholder rights agreement should not interfere with any merger, offer or other business combination approved by the board.

Although he said his offer was "final," Musk may have to raise his bid to satisfy other shareholders. A Saudi prince who is among Twitter's major shareholders scoffed at Musk's offer last week in a tweet.

Al Waleed bin Talal said he would reject the overtures because he didn't believe \$43 billion "comes close to the intrinsic value of Twitter, given its growth prospects." Twitter shares hit an all-time high of \$77.63 in March 2021.

When he made his offer public, Musk provided no details on financing, but such a disclosure could improve his chances.



Elon Musk, Tesla CEO, attends the opening of the Tesla factory Berlin Brandenburg in Gruenheide, Germany, March 22, 2022.

Associated Press

He could raise some of the money by borrowing billions using his stakes in Tesla and SpaceX as collateral, and he could bring in other investors.

The Twitter board's poison pill would give stockholders as of April 25 the right to buy one one-thousandth of a share of preferred stock for each common share they own, at a price of \$210. The rights are triggered if any person or group of investors buys 15% or more of the company's shares without board approval.

The preferred stock would have the same voting rights as a common share, according to the filing, which does not specifically mention Musk.

The poison pill defense essentially would spell the end of Twitter if Musk or another investor acquires 15% or more of the company, said James Cox, a professor of corporate and securities law at Duke University. Shareholders who exercise the rights and buy preferred stock at \$210 would get \$420 in Twitter stock or

assets, he said.

That would be more than Twitter can afford to pay, and likely would send the company into receivership, Cox said.

"You want to create an event that Musk would never want to trigger because it would be the death of Twitter," Cox said. He predicts that Musk and the board will negotiate, at least for a while, adding that no investor has ever crossed the line to activate a poison pill.

If Musk went ahead and triggered the poison pill, he risks wiping out much of the money he has invested in Twitter because his stake would be diluted, said Columbia University law professor Eric Talley. "You want to deter someone from deliberately triggering the poison pill," Talley said.

Twitter's board has a lot of information that the average shareholder doesn't, such as future earnings or market growth projections, and whether there's reason to believe that the share value is artificially

depressed, Talley said. The board, he said, could just hold out.

"They're sitting right now on top of a poison pill that's a bit of a showstopper. From a corporate law perspective, they're on pretty solid footing right now if they just keep that in place and say they're not comfortable bargaining at this stage."

Musk said in making his bid that Twitter "needs to be transformed as a private company" in order to build trust with its users and do better at serving what he calls the "societal imperative" of free speech. He said shareholders, not the board, should decide whether Twitter goes private.

Shares of Twitter rose 3.6% to \$46.72 in Monday afternoon trading, still \$7.48 shy of Musk's offer. That's a sign that investors are skeptical of whether Musk can pull off the deal.

Musk began accumulating Twitter shares in late January, ending up with a stake of about 9%. Only Vanguard Group controls more

Twitter shares.

A lawsuit filed last week in New York federal court alleged Musk illegally delayed disclosing his stake so he could buy more shares at lower prices.

Musk took to Twitter to criticize board members in recent days, saying he'd save about \$3 million per year by bringing the board salary to zero if his bid succeeds, and noting that board members collectively owning just a tiny financial stake in Twitter shows that their "economic interests are simply not aligned with shareholders."

He also used an exclamation point to express surprise that one board member, Robert Zoellick, a former World Bank president, doesn't appear to have ever posted anything from his profile on the social media site.

Musk, who has more than 82 million followers, is a prolific tweeter who has criticized other celebrity accounts for not tweeting enough, suggesting that as a sign that Twitter is dying. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

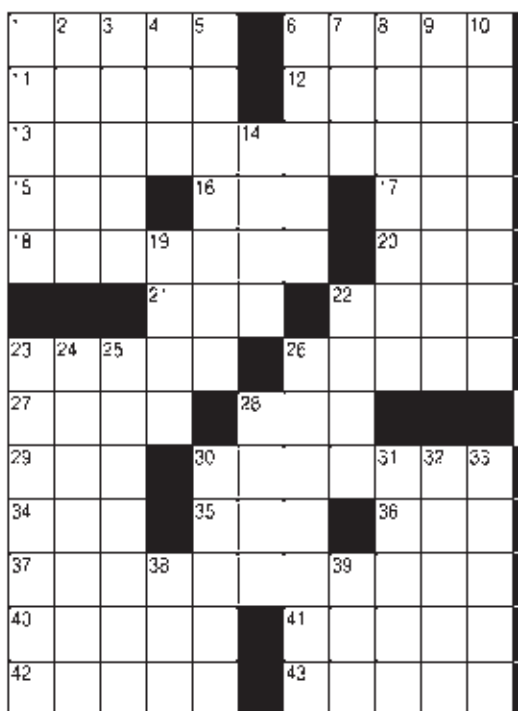
ACROSS
42 Losing plans
1 Honey-dew, for one
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11 Justice Kagan
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20 Galley item
21 Pay stub line
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26 Pre-release software versions
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28 Snoop grp.
29 Toddy base
30 Knotty craft
34 Lyric poem
35 One or more
36 Bud
37 Will Smith movie
40 Follow as a result
41 Hefty

DOWN
1 Monu-ment
Valley sights
2 Vote in
3 Prying tool
4 Count start
5 Tot tenders
6 Pens for hens
7 Outback bird
8 Give temporarily
9 Hoosier's home



Yesterday's answer

10 States
14 Brad of "Fight Club"
19 Writer Rice
22 Den denizen
23 Caressed
24 Escape expert
25 Enormous
26 Two-wheeler
28 "Pretty please?"
30 Foals' mothers
31 Set off
32 Bart's mother
33 Clan leader
38 Stomach
39 Solo of "Star Wars"



4-19

AXYDLBAAXR
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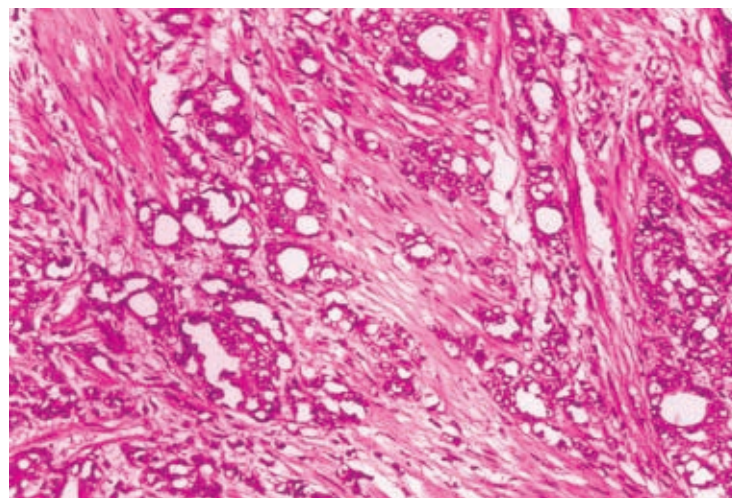
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-19 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

S I F T S Z Z S B N Q I I L I G S Y J
V Y P I G S Y D R N I H Q X V F V Y L
I G L N D G I F M G S Q X X V I S Y D V
G L K X D E L M Y I L K V I L — Q X M S F
D E S U U V E T

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE WHO CHASES TWO RABBITS - CATCHES NEITHER. CONFUCIUS

Doctors suggest new names for low-grade prostate cancer



This 1974 microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows changes in cells indicative of adenocarcinoma of the prostate.

Associated Press

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP Medical Writer

A cancer diagnosis is scary. Some doctors say it's time to rename low-grade prostate cancer to eliminate the alarming C-word.

Cancer cells develop in nearly all prostates as men age, and most prostate cancers are harmless. About 34,000 Americans die from prostate cancer annually, but treating the disease can lead to sexual dysfunction and incontinence.

Changing the name could lead more low-risk patients to skip unnecessary surgery and radiation.

"This is the least aggressive, wimpiest form of prostate cancer that is literally incapable of causing symptoms or spreading to other parts of the body," said University of Chicago Medicine's Dr. Scott Eggener, who is reviving a debate about how to explain the threat to worried patients.

The words "You have cancer" have a profound effect on patients, Eggener wrote Monday in Journal of Clinical Oncology. He and his co-authors say fear

of the disease can cause some patients to overreact and opt for unneeded surgery or radiation.

Others agree. "If you reduce anxiety, you'll reduce overtreatment," said Dr. David Penson of Vanderbilt University. "The word 'cancer,' it puts an idea in their head: 'I have to have this treated.'"

Diagnosis sometimes starts with a PSA blood test, which looks for high levels of a protein that may mean cancer but can also be caused by less serious prostate problems or even vigorous exercise.

When a patient has a suspicious test result, a doctor might recommend a biopsy, which involves taking samples of tissue from the prostate gland. Next, a pathologist looks under a microscope and scores the samples for how abnormal the cells look.

Often, doctors offer patients with the lowest score — Gleason 6 — a way to avoid surgery and radiation: active surveillance, which involves close monitoring but no immediate treatment.

In the U.S., about 60% of low-risk patients choose active surveillance. But they might still worry.

"I would be over the moon if people came up with a new name for Gleason 6 disease," Penson said. "It will allow a lot of men to sleep better at night."

But Dr. Joel Nelson of University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, said dropping the word "cancer" would "misinform patients by telling them there's nothing wrong. There's nothing wrong today, but that doesn't mean we don't have to keep track of what we've discovered."

Name changes have happened previously in low-risk cancers of the bladder, cervix and thyroid. In breast cancer, there's an ongoing debate about dropping "carcinoma" from DCIS, or ductal carcinoma in situ.

In prostate cancer, the 1960s-era Gleason ranking system has evolved, which is how 6 became the lowest score. Patients may assume it's a medium score on a scale of 1 to 10. In fact, it's the lowest on a scale of 6 to 10.

What to call it instead of cancer? Proposals include IDLE for indolent lesion of epithelial origin, or INERT for indolent neoplasm rarely requiring treatment.

"I don't really give a hoot what it's called as long as it's not called cancer," Eggener said.

Steve Rienks, a 72-year-old civil engineer in Naperville, Illinois, was diagnosed with Gleason 6 prostate cancer in 2014. He chose active surveillance, and follow-up biopsies in 2017 and 2021 found no evidence of cancer.

Calling it something else would help patients make informed choices, Rienks said, but that's not enough: Patients need to ask questions until they feel confident.

"It's about understanding risk," Rienks said. "I would encourage my fellow males to educate themselves and get additional medical opinions." □

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24/7

Israel successfully tests new laser missile defense system



An Israeli police officer demonstrates a laser defense system designed to intercept explosives-laden balloons launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel, on the Israeli Gaza border, Aug. 30, 2020. Associated Press

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel's new laser missile-defense system has successfully intercepted mortars, rockets and anti-tank missiles in recent tests, Israeli leaders said Thursday.

The Israeli-made laser system, known as the "Iron Beam," is designed to complement a series of aerial defense systems, including the more costly rocket-intercepting Iron Dome.

"This may sound like science-fiction, but it's real," said Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. "The Iron Beam's interceptions are silent, they're invisible and they only cost around \$3.50" apiece, he added.

Little is known about the laser system's effectiveness, but it is expected to be deployed on land, in the air and at sea. The goal is to deploy the laser systems around Israel's borders over the next decade to protect the country against attacks.

Thursday's announcement also sent a message to Israel's foes, including arch-enemy Iran. The tests took place last month in the Negev Desert.

The announcement came near the anniversary of the

11-day Israel-Gaza war, in which Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group fired more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel. Israel said its Iron Dome defense system has been a great success, with a 90% interception rate against incoming rocket fire. But officials say the system is expensive to deploy. Bennett has said that someone in Gaza can fire a rocket toward Israel for a few hundred dollars, but it costs tens of thousands of dollars for the Iron Dome to intercept it.

The Defense Ministry re-

leased a short video showing what it said were the new system's successful interceptions of rockets, mortars and an unmanned aerial vehicle. The video, which was highly edited and set to music, appeared to show a laser beam coming out of a ground station, hitting the targets and smashing them into small pieces.

Bennett said in February that Israel would begin using the system within a year.

Israel has already developed or deployed a series

of systems meant to intercept everything from long-range missiles to rockets launched from just a few kilometers (miles) away. It has also outfitted its tanks with a missile-defense system.

Talks on restoring Iran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers have stalled. Israel opposes the deal, saying it does not do enough to curb Iran's nuclear program or its military activities across the region, and Israeli officials have said they will unilaterally do what's necessary to protect the country. □

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Week 8/1113 (18k);
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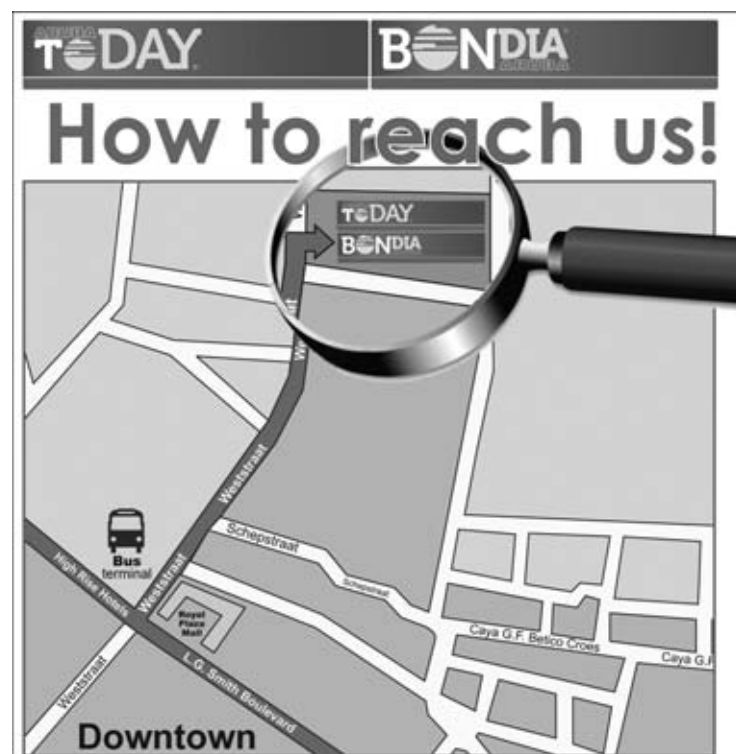
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TV's 'black-ish' ends 8-season run with legacy, fans secure

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A surprise awaited "black-ish" creator Kenya Barris and his family on a 2016 visit to the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington: An exhibit on the TV series was on display. "I was very, very emotional" at seeing the honor, Barris said. He returned to the Smithsonian museum earlier this month for a splashy salute to "black-ish" as the end of its eight-season run approached.

"It was just surreal. The Smithsonian, as a brand, is tied to things that are lasting, that are part of what the core DNA of this world is. To put our show in that, it meant a lot to me," he said.

Sitcoms, especially family-centric ones, are more likely to be enshrined in viewers' memories than museums. Shows such as "The Brady Bunch," "Good Times" and "Full House" were part of their viewers' coming of age, with the shows and their characters beloved well beyond their original runs.

Talk to admirers of 'black-ish' and the same seems probable for the series, which airs its half-hour finale at 9 p.m. EDT Tuesday (midnight EDT on Hulu), followed by ABC News' "black-ish: A Celebration" on ABC. The



This image released by ABC shows Anthony Anderson, left, and Tracee Ellis Ross in a scene from the series finale of "black-ish," airing April 19.

Associated Press

series was a network TV rarity: A depiction of a prosperous, tight-knit family of color, the Johnsons, with Black creators shaping their stories.

"I remember when it first came out, I was concerned that it was going to be either serious and off-putting, or really sad and comical," drawing on stereotypical characters that may or may not exist in life, said viewer Onaje Harper. The pandemic turned him into a binge-viewing convert, one who swats away online carping that the show isn't "real."

"It's not real to them, but this is my everyday," said Harper, an educator-turned-businessman in Dallas who is the grandson and

son of Black professionals. He remembers feeling the same way about criticism of "The Cosby Show," a 20th-century TV depiction of a well-off African American family.

But "black-ish" has a distinctly more layered view of race, starting with the title that reflects dad Andre "Dre" Johnson's fear that affluence is separating his children from their ethnic identity. It also has a sharper take on race relations, Harper said.

He cited an episode in which Dr. Rainbow "Bow" Johnson, played by Tracee Ellis Ross, is being a supportive parent and volunteers for a private school fundraiser. One of the white parents offers her help,

which the show reimagines as code for, "I think you're going to fail and you're over your head," as Harper recalled the scene.

"I died laughing, because the parents at my daughter's school are amazing, but we often leave that place thinking, 'Oh, my goodness, I hope our daughter's loving it, at least,'" Harper said.

Jerry McCormick grew up watching Bob Newhart's sitcoms and "Good Times" in the 1970s and '80s, among others. He compared "black-ish" to another comedy of the time.

"We never saw affluent Black people on TV, except for 'The Jeffersons,'" said McCormick of San Diego, who works in communications and as a journalism instructor. "I grew up in South Carolina and it helped having it on because it was aspirational."

He sees 'black-ish' as akin to "the grandchild of 'The Jeffersons' and the child of 'the Cosby Show.'" You have Dre and Bow, a couple who truly care about each other. They parent their children. They run the house. The children are not overtaking them."

Ladinia Brown, a New York City fraud investigator, said she loves "the reality of it. The stuff is funny because a lot of it is just so true." She cited a favorite episode that tackled colorism — dis-

crimination within an ethnic community against those with darker skin.

"That resonated with me because my kids are like different colors of the rainbow, all different complexions, and the same thing with my family," she said. "I really understood when they were addressing how people are treated differently within the African American race."

Her daughter, 19-year-old Emily Johnson, welcomed the show's handling of issues, major and mundane, that are part of Black life but largely ignored on screen. One example: a teen's quandary over whether to keep straightening her hair or go natural.

"Black-ish" also became a vehicle for sobering, nuanced chapters about racism, police violence and, in a hard-edged 2018 episode, the impact of Donald Trump's presidency. (The episode, shelved by ABC, was released two years later on Hulu.)

The goal is "telling stories that are about something, telling stories that have a point, that are actually trying to say something. It was what television for a long time used to be about," Barris said — whether it was dad's moral sermons in "Leave It to Beaver" or the social satire of Norman Lear's "All in the Family" and "Maude." □

Review: 'King's Shadow' chronicles unlikely treasure hunter

By ANDREW DeMILLO

Associated Press

Charles Masson isn't a household name, even for many avid readers of history, but it's easy to wonder why that's the case after reading "The King's Shadow."

Historian Edmund Richardson's book on Masson's search for the lost city Alexandria Beneath the Mountains is less about the treasure hunt and more about the unlikely of archeological heroes.

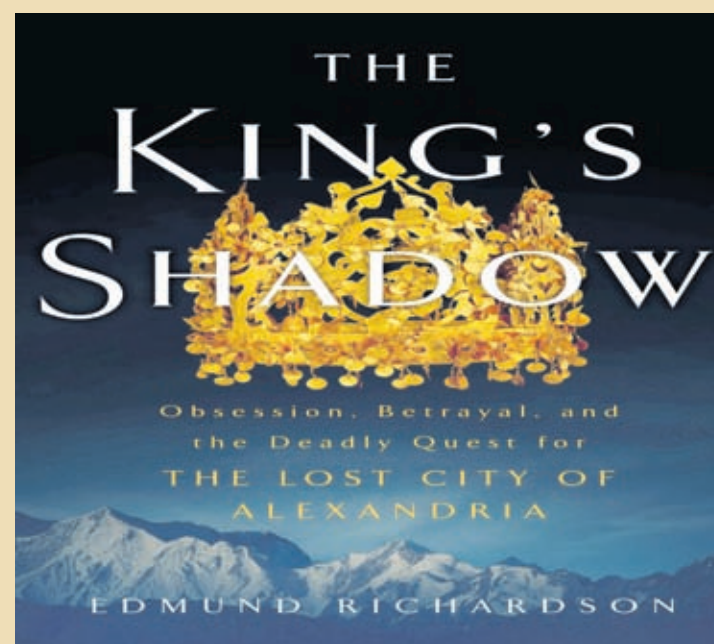
A deserter from the army for the East India Company in the 1800s, Masson wound up in Afghanistan and sought to find the remnants of the famed city that was part of Alexander the Great's sprawling empire.

That search winds up being the backdrop for Masson's exploits as he dodges

spies from the East India company, rivaling rulers and others. Along the way, Masson unearths archeological treasures that pointed to the city's existence.

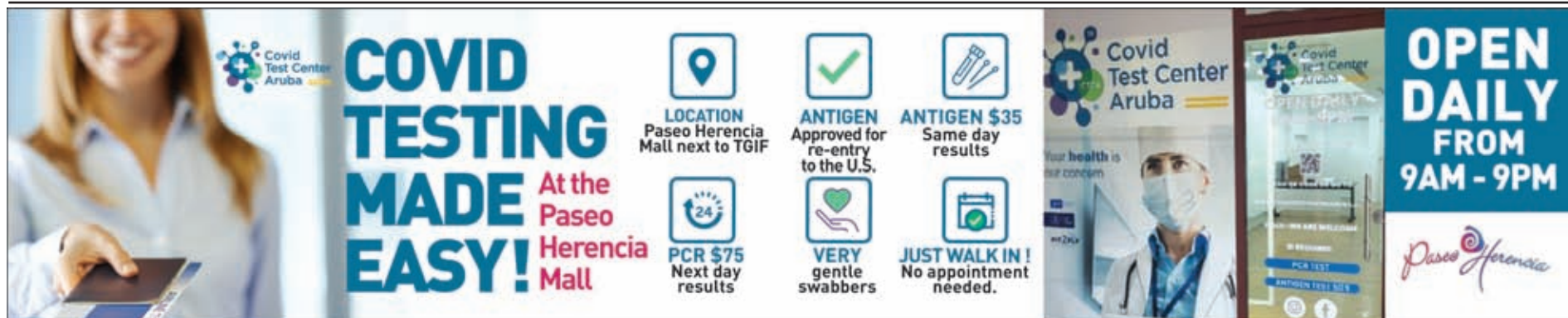
The story of Masson's life at times can be convoluted, with a massive cast of characters that many writers would die for. But Richardson skillfully weaves the tale of Alexander's empire with Masson's adventures, using a novelistic approach rather than dry academic one that focuses on the action without sacrificing key details about the history.

Toward the end of Richardson's book, he notes that history is not just formed by scholarship. Rather, he writes, "it is also made of stories." With "The King's Shadow," Richardson contributes quite a story to prove that point. □



This book cover image released by St. Martin's Press shows "The King's Shadow: Obsession, Betrayal, and the Deadly Quest for the Lost City of Alexandria" by Edmund Richardson.

Associated Press



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Polanco HR, 4 RBIs; Twins beat Red Sox 8-3 on Patriots' Day

By KEN POWTAK
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Jorge Polanco and Kyle Garlick hit early two-run homers over the Green Monster to back Dylan Bundy, carrying the Minnesota Twins past the Red Sox 8-3 in Boston's annual Patriots' Day game on Monday. The game started at 11:11 a.m. EDT, played in conjunction with the 126th Boston Marathon, which ended about one mile from Fenway Park.

"I think I definitely gave us a little bit of momentum there in the beginning," said Garlick of his first-inning homer. "I just wanted to make sure I got a good night's sleep because it was an early game today. I don't mind the day games. I'm more of a morning person."

Polanco added a two-run single in a four-run eighth inning and Gio Urshela had three singles for the Twins, who won the series finale for a four-game split.

Christian Vázquez hit a solo homer and Xander Bogaerts had three hits with an RBI for the Red Sox.

Bundy (2-0) gave up one run and five hits in 5 1/3 innings with six strikeouts and no walks. In his Twins' debut, he pitched five shutout innings after signing a \$4 million, one-year deal as a free agent on December 1. "This game's hard to play. It's 11 a.m. It's early," Bundy said. "It's always nice to have the guys swinging early and getting that early run support."

A few minutes after fans were turning on the back of the Monster attempting to get a glimpse at the men's leaders of the race heading toward nearby Kenmore Square, Polanco hit his drive into the second row of seats off starter Rich Hill (0-1) that made it 4-0 in the third. Hill was pitching



Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers, left, beats the tag from Minnesota Twins' Gio Urshela (15) at third base on a double by Xander Bogaerts during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 18, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

three days after his 94-year-old father, Lloyd Sr., passed away. His dad ran 37 Boston Marathons.

"For him to go out there and compete, that was good enough for us," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "Obviously, the two swings, right, the homers. Besides that, changing speeds, using the breaking ball, gave us more than enough the way he started."

Hill admitted that it's been a tough couple of days.

"It was a tough weekend," Hill said. "But the job is to be a professional and show up." Twins manager Rocco Baldelli expressed his sympathy before the game.

"We want to send our thoughts to Rich across the way," Baldelli said. "I'm sure it'll be an emotional and

very meaningful day for him."

Hill gave up four runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings.

"We feel sad for him," Boston third baseman Rafael Devers said through a translator. "He's a really good competitor and did a really good job out there today."

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAY

The Red Sox have been scheduled on Patriots' Day every year since 1959 but it was the first time since 2019 they played on the day of the marathon. The 2020 baseball season was delayed and that year's marathon held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2021 marathon was moved to October.

TRIBUTE

The Red Sox wore their traditional white home uniforms, but with red lettering that read "Boston" across the front, a tribute that started nine years ago in the first game after two bombs went off near the finish line, killing three people and injuring more than 260 others.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Twins: Baldelli met with OF Byron Buxton, who left the series opener after aggravating his right knee on a hard slide. "He's very optimistic about how he's feeling right now," Baldelli said. "I think we're going to get to the point in the next day or two where we're going to talk about a specific plan about getting him back." Buxton had an MRI on Saturday that didn't reveal

any structural issues.

Red Sox: INF Trevor Story had the day off. ... C Kevin Plawecki was placed on the COVID-19 related injured list, and C Connor Wong was recalled from Triple-A Worcester.

UP NEXT

Twins: Begin a three-game series in Kansas City on Tuesday. RHP Chris Archer (0-0, 0.00 ERA) is scheduled to make his second start after pitching four scoreless innings last week. RHP Carlos Hernández (0-0, 8.31) is in line for the Royals.

Red Sox: Open a three-game series against the Blue Jays in their first night game of the season at Fenway Park Tuesday. RHP Nathan Eovaldi (1-0, 4.50) is slated to face Toronto LHP Yusei Kikuchi (0-1, 5.40). □



Olympic champ Jepchirchir wins 50th women's Boston Marathon

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Reigning Olympic champion Peres Jepchirchir capped the celebration of a half-century of women in the Boston Marathon with a finish to top them all.

The 28-year-old Kenyan won a see-saw sprint down the stretch on Monday, when the world's oldest and most prestigious annual marathon returned to its traditional spring start for the first time since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

On the 50th anniversary of the first official women's race, Jepchirchir traded places with Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh eight times in the final mile before pulling ahead for good on Boylston Street and finishing in 2 hours, 21 minutes, 1 second.

"I was feeling she was strong. I pushed it," said Jepchirchir, who earned \$150,000 and the traditional gilded olive wreath to go with her Olympic gold medal and 2021 New York City Marathon title. "I fell behind. But I didn't lose hope."

Evans Chebet completed the Kenyan sweep, breaking away from Gabriel Geay with about four miles to go to finish in 2:06:51 for his first major marathon victory. The 2019 winner Lawrence Cherono was second, 30 seconds back, defending champion Benson Kipruto was third, and Geay fell back to fourth.

Daniel Romanchuk of Champaign, Illinois, won his second career wheelchair title in 1:26:58. Switzerland's Manuela Schar won her second straight Boston crown and fourth overall, finishing in 1:41:08.

Sharing a Patriots' Day weekend with the Red Sox

home opener — the city's other sporting rite of spring — more than 28,000 run-

Ukrainians are fighting over there for peace in my country, in Europe and the

course and she drifted into Jepchirchir.

Yeshaneh reached out to

"We had communicated earlier, all of us. We wanted to keep running as a group," said Chebet, who finished fourth in London last fall. "I observed that my counterparts were nowhere near me and that gave me the motivation."

This race marked the 50th anniversary of Nina Kuscsik's victory in the first official women's race. (But not the first woman to finish: That honor belongs to Bobbi Gibb, who first ran in 1966 among the unofficial runners known as bandits.)

At Wellesley College, the women's school near the halfway point, the iconic "scream tunnel" was back after the pandemic-induced absence — and louder than ever. One spectator in Wellesley held a sign that read "50 Years Women Running Boston," along with names of the eight who broke the gender barrier in 1972.

Five of the original pioneers returned for this year's celebration, including Valerie Rogosheske, who finished sixth in '72; she ran alongside her daughters this year and served as the honorary starter for the women's elite field.

Rogosheske, who wore Bib No. 1972, said at the starting line that she had been planning to hide in the bushes and run as a bandit 50 years ago until women got the go-ahead a few weeks before the race.

"It's a reminder that we've got it pretty easy," said 2018 winner Des Linden, who finished 13th on Monday. "Fifty years ago, they were breaking barriers and doing the hard part."

"It's really not lost on me that there's 126 years of race history here, and we're 'Rah! Rah!'-ing 50," she said. "But you can't look back, you look forward." □



Boston Marathon women's division winner Peres Jepchirchir, of Kenya, left, and men's winner Evans Chebet, of Kenya, pose at the finish line Monday, April 18, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

ners returned to the streets from Hopkinton to Copley Square six months after a smaller and socially distanced event that was the only fall race in its 126-year history.

Fans waved Ukrainian flags in support of the runners whose 26.2-mile run Monday was the easiest part of their journey. Forty-four Ukrainian citizens had registered for the race; only 11 started.

Athletes from Russia and Belarus were disinvited in response to the invasion.

"I decided to come here and show that Ukrainians are strong, we're fighting and we hope peace will come soon," said Dmytro Molchanov, a Ukrainian who lives in New York.

"It's really tough, basically, being here while all my family, my friends and

world overall," said Molchanov, who finished in 2:39:20. "When it was really tough I tried not to give up and tried pushing, kind of fight with myself the way Ukrainians are fighting against Russia right now."

Ukrainians who were unable to make it to Boston were offered a deferral or refund.

"Whatever they want to do, they can do," Boston Athletic Association President Tom Grilk said. "Run this year, run next year. You want a puppy? Whatever. There is no group we want to be more helpful to."

Jepchirchir and Yeshaneh, who was third in New York last fall, spent most of the morning running shoulder to shoulder — or even closer: Just after the 25-kilometer marker, the Ethiopian's eyes wandered from the

apologize, and the two clasped each other's arms as they continued on.

"In running, we understand each other and we maybe somebody came and bumps, but it's OK," Jepchirchir said. "It was not rivalry; it was just an accident."

Beaten, Yeshaneh finished four seconds back. Kenya's Mary Ngugi finished third for the second time in six months, following her podium in October after the 125th race was delayed, canceled and delayed again.

About 20 men stayed together — with American CJ Albertson leading for much of the way — before Chebet and Geay broke from the pack coming out of Heartbreak Hill. Chebet pulled away a couple of miles later.